it has been decided to establish permanent Benches of the Guwahati High Court in the capitals of those States, which require them, by issue of Presidential Orders, after the requisite infrastructural facilities have been provided by the State Governments concerned.

Third aircraft carrier design

3078. SHRI R SAMBASIVA RAO. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy is in close touch with the leading British Maritime concern Swan Hunters for the design of the third aircraft carrier-Ob) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Navy is planning to manufacture the aircraft carrier indigenously; and

(c) if so, whether it has got the competence and the technical know-how to undertake this job successfully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The indigenous construction of a Sea Control Ship is under consideration of the Government. Concept design studies for the purpose are proposed to be undertaken shortly with foreign collaboration. Negotiations for selecting the foreign collaborator are in process. The offer made by M/s Swan Hunter is also being negotiated. The feasibility of the indigenous construction of the Sea Control Ship will be viewed after the completion of the concept design studies.

Comt escalation of the projects

3079. SHRl ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE; SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

WiU the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state what was the total cost over-run of 152 delayed Central Projects,, each costing more than Rs. 20 crores and covered by the Quarterly Monitoring System as on March 15, 1988 and also as on March 15, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): 152 projects were delayed with respect to original schedule of commissioning as on 30th June 1987. The number of projects reported delayed as On 31st December, 1987 was 169. The data on projects for quarter ending March '88 has still not been received.

Cost over-run of the delayed projects as on 30th June, 1987 and 31st December 1987 was about Rs. 18, 900 crores & Rs. 21, 000 crores respectively with respect to original sanc-tioned cost.

In the quarterly monitoring system, the number of projects reporting incremental delays and the coverage of total number of projects in different sectors vary from quarter to quarter, due to additions | deletions.

Move to turn "Bangladesh into an Islamic Republic

3080. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: SHRl KAPIL VERMA;

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of President Ershad's recent move to make Bangladesh an Islamic Republic; if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; aiid

(b) what are its implications for India and what would be its reper cussions on minorities' right in Ban gladesh?

THE MINISTER) OF STATE IN THE MHHSTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRT- K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen reports of an